

## Message Text

SECRET POSS DUPE

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12-S  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W  
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R 021700Z APR 75  
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
TO SECSTATE WASDC 6996

S E C R E T MEXICO 2828  
EXDIS  
E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINR, PN, PQ  
SUBJECT: SPECIAL NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATE (SNIE) ON  
PANAMA

REF: STATE 71284

1. WE BELIEVE THAT IN FIRST SCENARIO MENTIONED REFTEL  
GOM WOULD PARTICIPATE IN AND MIGHT STIMULATE EXPRESSIONS  
OF "SOLIDARITY" BY LA COUNTRIES WITH PANAMA, GOM ALSO LIKELY  
TO ENCOURAGE BOTH SIDES, THROUGH  
BILATERAL APPROACHES TO  
RATIFY A SIGNED TREATY. WE BELIEVE GOM INITIATIVES IN THIS  
SCENARIO WOULD BE CORDIAL, WELL-INTENTIONED, AND POSSIBLY  
HELPFUL.

2. WE BELIEVE GOM REACTION TO SECOND SCENARIO (IF SENATE  
FAILED TO ACT AFTER SOME TIME -- SAY SIX MONTHS -- OR  
REFUSED TO APPROVE TREATY) WOULD LIKELY BE THE SAME AS ITS  
REACTION TO THIRD SCENARIO , I.E.

A. BILATERAL RELATIONS WOULD NOT BE DIRECTLY AND  
SUBSTANTIALLY AFFECTED EXCEPT THAT GOM OFFICIALS -- PARTI-  
CULARLY PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA -- MIGHT BE EXPECTED TO ENGAGE  
IN EXTRAVAGANT RHETORIC AND POLEMICS AGAINST THE U.S.  
WITH SOME ADVERSE EFFECT ON BILATERAL RELATIONS.

B. MEXICO WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY LEAD THE WAY IN  
RAISING THE CANAL ISSUE IN MANY INTERNATIONAL FORUMS,  
HOWEVER IRRELEVANT IN GIVEN CONTEXT.

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C. DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST THE U.S. MIGHT OCCUR

IN LOCALIZED SETTING (E.G. AT UNIVERSITIES) AND GOM MIGHT EVEN ALLOW DEMONSTRATORS TO MARCH PAST EMBASSY (AS OCCURRED AFTER CHILEAN COUP IN 1973). SO FAR GOM HAS CONTROLLED SUCH DEMONSTRATIONS, HOWEVER, AND WE CONSIDER IT UNLIKELY THAT DEMONSTRATORS WOULD BE ALLOWED TO GET OUT OF HAND OR PHYSICALLY THREATEN U.S. INSTALLATIONS.

D. WE DO NOT CONSIDER ACTION AGAINST U.S. ECONOMIC INTERESTS LIKELY, EITHER BY GOM OR PRIVATE GROUPS.

E. FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW, MULTILATERAL GROUPS SUCH AS SELA WOULD BE GIVEN IMPETUS BY SCENARIOS UNDER DISCUSSION, JUST AS LATIN AMERICAN REACTION TO U.S. TRADE ACT PRODUCED UNUSUAL UNANIMITY.

F. GOM WOULD, IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, ATTACK U.S. POSITION UNDER THESE SCENARIOS AS FURTHER PROOF OF UNRESPONSIVENESS OF "RICH COUNTRIES", GREAT POWERS, TO LEGITIMATE ASPIRATIONS OF THIRD WORLD.

3. WE BELIEVE GOM CONSIDERS CANAL ISSUE IS ONE OF FEW ON WHICH THERE IS SUBSTANTIAL LATIN AMERICAN UNITY, AND CONSIDERS ITSELF A LEADER ON THIS ISSUE AS AT PRE-TLATELOLCO MEETING AT BOGOTA. BESIDES MEXICO'S SUPPORT FOR PANAMA ON PRINCIPLE, THEY PROBABLY EXPECT FURTHER DIVIDENDS FROM THIS SUPPORT IN FORM OF GREATER LATIN AMERICAN UNITY BEHIND SELA CONCEPT AND OTHER MEXICAN POSITIONS ON LATIN AMERICAN INTEGRATION.

4. GOM INTEREST IN CANAL ISSUE PROBABLY ALSO REFLECTS RECENT EMPHASIS ON "NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER" BY WHICH RESOURCES ARE TO FLOW FROM DEVELOPED TO LESS-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, EITHER THROUGH PRICE CARTELS FOR DVW MATERIALS OR THROUGH EXPLOITATION OF A STRATEGIC LOCATION SUCH AS THE CANAL.  
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NOTE BY OC/T: EXDIS CAPTION ADDED PER S/S-O, MR. TANNER.

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NIE, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS, INTERNATIONAL CANALS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Subject:** SPECIAL NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATE (SNIE) ON PANAMA  
**TAGS:** PINR, PN, PQ, MX, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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